

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication 2001-045192 ("the '192 publication") in view of U.S. Patent 6,463,474 to Fuh et al. ("Fuh"). Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '192 publication in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2001/0016912 to Takahashi, and further in view of Fuh.<sup>1</sup>

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 19 over the proposed combination of the '192 publication in view of Fuh, on page 3 of the Office Action of 02/20/2008, it was admitted that the '192 publication does not teach or suggest "wherein the fingerprint information stored in the [terminal apparatus] is deleted upon completion of a reading operation of the document image or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed."

Similarly, regarding the rejections of independent claims 1 and 16, apparently over the proposed combination of the '192 publication in view of Takahashi, and further in view of Fuh, it was admitted on page 7, first paragraph and page 8, last paragraph of the Office Action of 02/20/2008 that the '192 publication and Takahashi do not teach or suggest that fingerprint information stored in a scanner and/or a terminal apparatus is deleted upon completion of a reading operation or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed (see independent claims 1 and 16).

On page 3, third paragraph of the Office Action of 02/20/2008, column 5, lines 11-20 of Fuh was cited allegedly for teaching the Applicant's claimed *deletion of fingerprint information*.

Referring to column 5, lines 11-20 of Fuh, an "inactivity timer" is described, where the inactivity timer expires when no communications are directed from a client to a network resource within a predetermined period of time, and where temporary entries and authorization information are removed from a network device if the inactivity timer expires.

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<sup>1</sup> On page 5 of the Office Action of 02/20/2008, only the '192 publication and Takahashi are listed as being part of the rejection. However, in the detailed rejections on pages 7-9, for example, the Fuh reference is also described.

In column 14, lines 34-65 of Fuh, authentication cache inactivity timers are described, where upon a timeout being reached, temporary entries in ACLs (access control lists) are deleted (see column 14, lines 57-61 of Fuh).

The authentication procedure of Fuh is further described, e.g., in column 10, line 7 to column 13, line 40 of Fuh. The authentication procedure can be implemented to remove entries from a firewall router 210 (see, e.g., column 10, line 10). In Fuh, authentication is carried out by comparing authorization information, such as a user name and password entered by a client host 306 (see, e.g., column 11, lines 49-55 of Fuh), with information stored as a user profile in a database 220 connected to a AAA server 218.

However, the Fuh reference does not address the deletion of fingerprint information stored in a scanner and/or a terminal apparatus, as recited in independent claims 1, 16, and 19.

Further, in Fuh, after the completion of an authentication procedure, authorization information and a user profile are not removed, but still remain in the client host 306 and the database 220, respectively (see column 14, lines 57-61 of Fuh). Therefore, unlike the Applicant's claimed invention, the authentication information in Fuh remains stored after a session is completed.

Therefore, even if the Fuh reference was somehow combined with the '192 publication and/or Takahashi, the proposed combinations would not teach or suggest that fingerprint information stored in a scanner and/or a terminal apparatus is deleted upon completion of a reading operation or when a predetermined time has elapsed before the reading operation is completed, for at least the reasons discussed above.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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